

II. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments Made Herein and Summary of Status of Claims

- **Please amend claims 27 38, 41 and 42 without prejudice.**

Claims 27-42 exist after the amendment above is entered. Claims 27, 38, 41, and 42, are amended herein.

Statement with Respect to Scope of Amended and Non-Amended Claims

Revisions to the claim set is made in order to streamline prosecution of this case in order to obtain early allowance of embodiments that are presently anticipated to be of commercial significance and are not made for a purpose of patentability. Any amendment, cancellation, withdrawal or addition made herein with respect to the claims should not be construed in any manner as indicating Applicants' surrender of any subject matter of the application, or surrender of any equivalent to any element asserted in one or more claims. Any narrowing which may be evinced with respect to subject matter covered by the claims as a whole, or by one or more claims of the appended claims whether amended, re-represented, or new, when compared to claims previously in the application, should not be interpreted as indicating that the Applicants have generally disclaimed the territory between the original claimed subject matter and the amended claimed subject matter. Amended claims elements are to be construed to include substantial equivalents known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants assert that any amendments transacted herein are made without prejudice and reserve all rights to prosecute any canceled claims, and claim structures preceding any amendment to a particular claim, and other disclosed (but not presently claimed) embodiments in the application, in future continuation applications, divisional applications, continuation-in-part applications, continuing prosecution applications, requests for continuing examination, re-examination applications and any other application claiming priority to the present application. No new matter has been introduced with this amendment.

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▪ **COMPLETE LIST OF CLAIMS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN BEFORE THE OFFICE
AFTER ENTRANCE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN**

The following claims constitute a complete list of claims that are or have been before the office after entrance of the amendments made herein. Amendments to the claims are indicated in accord with Revised 37 C.F.R. §1.121. In accord with such regulation, the listing of claims set forth below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

--CLAIMS AS PENDING IN THE APPLICATION WITH AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN
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27. (Currently Amended) A friendship band with a plurality of closed loop members, comprising:

a) a band section made of a first material that is flat in cross-section, is stretchable and has first and second ends;

b) a closure means attached to the first and second ends of the band section for releasably connecting the first end to the second end; and

c) the ~~[[a]]~~ plurality of closed loop members slidably mounted on the band section, wherein each closed loop member is made of a second material that is flat in cross-section, has a loop opening that conforms to the cross-section of the band section when mounted thereon, includes an indicia on a portion of an exposed surface thereof, and is removable from the first or second end of the band section so ~~it may~~ as to be exchangeable with one or more slidably removable closed loop members of other friendship bands.

28. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, wherein the first material is an elastic material.

29. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 28, wherein the first material is selected from the group consisting of elasticized plastics, rubber, plasticized rubber, elasticized fabric materials, and combinations thereof

30. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, wherein the second material is an elastic material.

31. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 30, wherein the second material is selected from the group consisting of nylon and silk.

32. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 30, wherein the closure means includes a first portion that is attached to the first end of the band section and a second portion that is attached to the second end of the band section, and at least one of the first and second closure means portions has a cross-section that is larger than the loop opening of each closed loop member, whereby each closed loop member is elastically expanded to pass over the at least one of the first and second closure means portions so to remove each closed loop member from the friendship band.

33. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, wherein the indicia included on a portion of an exposed surface of each closed loop member is selected from the group consisting of letters, numbers, insignias, emblems, corporate logos, stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects, and animals.

34. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, wherein the indicia included on a portion of an exposed surface of each closed loop member is embroidered into the exposed surface.

35. (Previously Amended) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, wherein the second material is a fabric material that is joined at a seam line by a mechanism selected from the group consisting of stitches, glue, staples, and laser fusion.

36. (Previously Amended) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, wherein the first material and second material are the same material.

37. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, wherein the band section is elongated so the friendship band can be worn as a necklace.

38. (Currently amended) A friendship band as recited in Claim 27, further comprising including an outer surface layer enclosing the band section except for an open section comprising an elastic strip.

39. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 38, wherein the outer surface layer is made of material selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, nylon, silk, linen, polyester, and combinations thereof.

40. (Previously added) A friendship band as recited in Claim 38, wherein the outer surface layer is joined to the band section proximate the first and second ends by a mechanism selected from the group consisting of stitches, glue, staples, and laser fusion.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of using a first friendship band and a second friendship band, comprising:

a) providing the **[[a]]** first friendship band including a band section having closure means for connecting ends of the band section, and a plurality of closed loop members each having a first indicia thereon and mounted onto the band section;

b) opening the closure means of the first friendship band and removing one of the plurality of closed loop members having first indicia thereon;

c) exchanging the removed one of the plurality of closed loop members with a closed loop member having a second indicia thereon removed from the **[[a]]** second friendship band; and

d) replacing the closed loop member having a second indicia thereon onto the first friendship band and connecting the closure means thereof

42. (Currently Amended) A method of using a first friendship band and a second friendship band, comprising:

a) providing the **[[a]]** first friendship band including a first band section having closure means for connecting ends of the first band section, and a plurality of closed loop members each having a first indicia thereon and mounted onto the first band section of the first friendship band;

- b) providing the [[a]] second friendship band including a second band section having closure means for connecting ends of the second band section, and a plurality of closed loop members each having a second indicia thereon and mounted onto the second band section of the second friendship band;
- c) opening the closure means of the first friendship band and removing one of the plurality of closed loop members having first indicia thereon;
- d) opening the closure means of the second friendship band and removing one of the plurality of closed loop members having second indicia thereon;
- e) replacing the one of the plurality of closed loop members having first indicia thereon onto the second band section of the second friendship band and connecting the closure means thereof and
- f) replacing the one of the plurality of closed loop members having second indicia thereon onto the first band section of the first friendship band and connecting the closure means thereof